

**To:** Atkins, Blake[Atkins.Blake@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bira, Mike  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 2:19:51 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

OK, thanks Blake.

I'll pass on to Brian/Mike. I just heard about the spill into Concrete Creek. Looks like EPA caused it?

**From:** Atkins, Blake  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 9:12 AM  
**To:** Bira, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

Mike,

I'm just suggesting water quality parameters such as pH, alkalinity, etc., that would help track the plume.

Blake Atkins  
214-406-5907 mobile

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**From:** Bira, Mike  
**Sent:** 8/7/2015 8:21 AM  
**To:** [Fontenot, Brian](#); [Schaub, Mike](#)  
**Cc:** [Brown, James](#); [Atkins, Blake](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

Brian/Mike

Do you know anything about this issue? The DW folks look at WQ slightly different than we do. I'm looking at "acceptable levels for public health" as contact recreation WQS. I'm thinking they're looking at concentrations of contaminants and treatability for consumption. I guess we can send them the suite of WQS on the Animas. The surface WQ folks at NMED should be a good source of info. I don't recognize the NMED names on the email string.

**From:** Brown, Jamesr  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:45 AM  
**To:** Atkins, Blake; Restivo, Angela; Garcia, David; McCasland, Mark; Kirkland, Robert  
**Cc:** Foster, Althea; Bira, Mike; Schaub, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

The recovery times will be largely dependent upon when the flow at the source stops. I understand there is still mining waste water flowing into the Animas River. We can get clarification on this today.

James R. Brown, P.G.

Associate Director

Source Water Protection Branch

Water Quality Protection Division

U.S. EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue (Mail Code: 6WQ-N)

Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-3175

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/index.htm>



**From:** Atkins, Blake  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:22 AM  
**To:** Brown, Jamesr; Restivo, Angela; Garcia, David; McCasland, Mark; Kirkland, Robert  
**Cc:** Foster, Althea; Bira, Mike; Schaub, Mike

**Subject:** Re: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

It would also be helpful for modeling purposes to get real time monitoring data from public water systems (i.e., water quality parameters at intakes), as well as from any monitoring stations on the Animas.

Angela, you could ask Stephanie to make these data requests.

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**From:** Brown, Jamesr  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2015 7:06 AM  
**To:** Restivo, Angela; Garcia, David; Atkins, Blake; McCasland, Mark; Kirkland, Robert  
**Cc:** Foster, Althea; Bira, Mike; Schaub, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

Mike Schaub and Mike Bira from our Ecosystems Branch may be able to assist with item 1. I'll copy them on this email.  
Jim

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** Restivo, Angela  
**Sent:** 8/6/2015 7:14 PM  
**To:** Garcia, David; Brown, Jamesr; Atkins, Blake; McCasland, Mark; Kirkland, Robert  
**Cc:** Foster, Althea  
**Subject:** Update Gold King Mines-WQ action items

Tomorrow morning at 9:30 am there will be an update call with R8. Same call in number as today's 3:30 meeting.

1) The REOC is wanting guidance from our Division on when the water quality of areas of the river impacted would rebound to levels acceptable for public health.

What would be most helpful would be estimated time of recovery as well as the standards for recreational activities.

It sounds like we might want to include representatives from some of our other branches to help answer these questions.

2) They would like to have a map that includes intakes and infiltration galleries into Region 9 and Navajo Nation territory.

3) They are also requesting travel times for all of these new points up to gauge 09371010. This would be based on R9/Navajo intakes. If we have difficulty accessing that information then travel times to each of the gauges would be helpful.

a. Bob they were wondering how current the stream flows that you used for the calculation were. It would be most helpful if we could have the travel time to the first gauge prior to the 9:30 meeting.

Thanks

Angela

**From:** Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV [<mailto:thomas.skibitski@state.nm.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 6:25 PM  
**To:** Foster, Althea  
**Cc:** Romero, Nora, NMENV; Crossland, Ronnie; Webster, Susan; Restivo, Angela  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mines

They are collecting the baseline samples on behalf of EPA. Analytes are as we discussed: TAL metals and Hg. Tomorrow we can coordinate their disposition – if you have EPA staff in the area we can assign COC to EPA and your staff can take possession of them, if you want us to send them out we need to coordinate.

TS

**From:** Foster, Althea [<mailto:Foster.Althea@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 5:21 PM  
**To:** Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV  
**Cc:** Romero, Nora, NMENV; Crossland, Ronnie; Webster, Susan; Restivo, Angela  
**Subject:** Re: Gold King Mines

Thomas,

Please clarify your postscript, do you plan to perform the analysis for these samples and if so what parameters will be analyzed.

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 6, 2015, at 6:01 PM, Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV <[thomas.skibitski@state.nm.us](mailto:thomas.skibitski@state.nm.us)> wrote:

Nora,

I expect to get that answer from EPA and if their drinking water folks do not contact you directly then I will forward to you anything I get. I've cc'd the EPA region 6 on this note to make them aware of your concern.

Thanks,

TS

PS, Farmington and Aztec WWTP lab techs will collect samples from the river this evening and refrigerate them over night.

TS

**From:** Romero, Nora, NMENV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV  
**Subject:** Gold King Mines

Tom,

Can tell me who will be contacting DWB when the Animas water quality is satisfactory for human consumption. Our public water systems will be looking to us for direction on when they will be able to open their intakes for supply.

Thanks,

Nora J. Romero

Drinking Water Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department

Phone: 505.222.9531

Fax: 505.222.9510